

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET**

## **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services**

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Cambridge. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2004.*

### **Residents of the City of Cambridge**

#### **Characteristics of Admissions**

In FY 2004, there were 102,226 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 0.7% (693) of these admissions reside in the City of Cambridge.<sup>1</sup> **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2004, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Cambridge reported the following characteristics:

- 70% were male and 29% were female.
- 57% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 64% were white non-Latino, 22% were black non-Latino, 9% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 70% were never married, 10% were married, and 19% reported not to be married now.
- 25% had less than high school education, 43% completed high school, and 31% had more than high school education.
- 26% were employed.
- 27% were homeless.
- 37% had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Primary Substance of Use**

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Cambridge.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2004</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	44%	32%	7%	4%	6%
State	43%	39%	5%	4%	2%

#### **Substances Used in Past Year**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

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<sup>1</sup> To protect client confidentiality, statistics representing clients under 18 years of age have been omitted from this fact sheet.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1996 – FY 2004</b>							
City of Cambridge							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '96</b>	2,003	1,704	688	708	546	542	377
<b>FY '97</b>	1,923	1,648	650	615	472	559	401
<b>FY '98</b>	1,695	1,392	521	515	384	530	426
<b>FY '99</b>	1,615	1,287	450	472	305	562	405
<b>FY '00</b>	1,373	1,052	294	361	220	487	379
<b>FY '01</b>	1,228	959	316	285	152	435	321
<b>FY '02</b>	1,115	823	229	248	135	416	282
<b>FY '03</b>	1,109	817	282	269	171	395	279
<b>FY '04</b>	693	477	209	184	129	259	200

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Cambridge and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

